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Krzysztof SKUBISZEWSKI
(Phonetic: skoobeeZHEHVskie)

POLAND

Minister of Foreign Affairs
(since 1989)

Addressed as: Mr. Minister

Krzysztof Skubiszewski has held his current position in all four of Poland's post-Communist governments. A highly distinguished professor and political independent, he has a breadth of knowledge and experience that is probably unmatched among the current crop of Polish officials. His stature as one of the country's top diplomats has not been diminished under the coalition government of Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka; Skubiszewski, who visited Israel in 1992, would have been invited even if he was no longer Foreign Minister, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] under the guidance of Skubiszewski and Defense Minister Janusz Onyszkiewicz, a seasoned team, Poland will pursue a step-by-step merger with Western security structures, rather than push for outright membership; integrate into, instead of defending against, Western market economies; and cultivate good relations with Poland's neighbors to the east. [REDACTED]

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The Foreign Minister apparently has had a benefactor in President Lech Walesa; Skubiszewski reportedly was retained as Foreign Minister by then Premier Jan Olszewski in December 1991 at the President's insistence. [REDACTED]

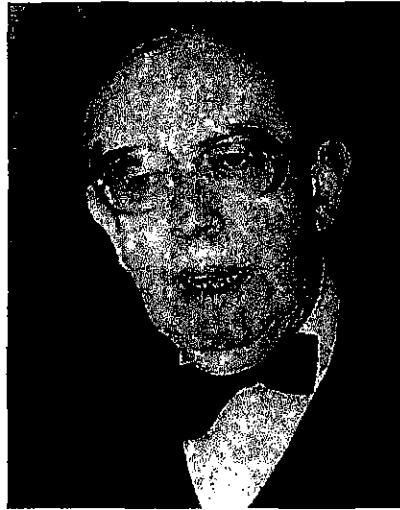
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[REDACTED] The Foreign Minister reportedly objected to Walesa's plans to expand the presidential office to include secretariats and departments, which would correspond to the ministries. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the Foreign Ministry is sometimes overlooked in the President's policy deliberations. [REDACTED]

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A Consummate Professional

Skubiszewski, who has been described as calm and informal during negotiations, is reportedly given to concise and focused statements. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] he ably assisted President Lech Walesa during a July 1991 visit to NATO Headquarters by providing comprehensive and elegant elaborations of Walesa's sometimes cryptic foreign policy pronouncements. [REDACTED]

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Skubiszewski never raised his voice, was always polite, and apologized "if he was even two minutes late." [REDACTED]

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Looking to Bonn

Skubiszewski has been particularly attentive to bilateral relations with Germany. In July 1992, he persuaded German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel to visit in order to discuss border issues, possible German sponsorship of closer Polish relations with

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(b)(1) the EC, and increased financial investment in
 (b)(3) Poland's privatization efforts. [redacted]
 [redacted] Skubiszewski also
 invested much of his personal prestige in drawing
 up a treaty with Germany that was ratified by the
 Sejm (lower house of parliament) in October 1991.
 He has since praised Germany's supportive role
 during Poland's association agreement negotiations
 with the EC. [redacted]

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Security Policy Issues

Skubiszewski has devoted much of his attention
 to developing security ties to NATO and the West
 but has frequently said that Warsaw is not
 considering a formal relationship with the Alliance.
 He has made developing relations with the former
 Soviet republics another priority; he is reportedly
 opposed, however, to expanding the Visegrad group
 of Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and
 Slovakia to include Ukraine or other former Soviet
 republics. On the other hand, Skubiszewski has had
 no objection to Ukraine's increasing its ties to the
 rest of Europe; he has expressed support for
 Ukrainian membership in the Council of Europe.

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At a December 1992 meeting of the CSCE
 council, Skubiszewski concluded that European and
 transatlantic institutions such as CSCE had proved
 inefficient in preventing and resolving conflicts and
 eliminating security risks. His solution to
 combating these shortcomings would be to ensure
 that the CSCE has a stronger negotiating role, uses
 more instruments to prevent and resolve conflict,
 and adopts a more efficient decisionmaking process.
 Skubiszewski also suggested that peacekeeping
 missions be financed by participating countries. [redacted]

Lifetime Academic

Skubiszewski was born on 10 August 1926 into a
 wealthy and educated Poznan family. He is a
 graduate of Adam Mickiewicz University in
 Poznan. Skubiszewski attended Harvard in the late
 1950s on a Ford Foundation grant and was awarded
 an LL.M. A highly respected professor of
 international law, he lectured at the University of
 Geneva in 1961 and at the University of London in
 1963. In 1964 he reportedly did research at
 Columbia on the UN General Assembly. [redacted]

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Skubiszewski is an acknowledged expert on
 Polish-German relations. During 1981-84 he was a
 member of Jozef Cardinal Glemp's Social Council
 on the Polish-West German forum. In 1989 he was
 the architect of a highly successful campaign to
 include Poland in the German reunification process.
 During the February 1990 Open Skies Conference,
 then Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze
 consulted him on several occasions. [redacted]

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Skubiszewski has written on international
 organizations, Polish-German border issues, and
 military law. He [redacted]
 speaks fluent German and Oxford English, and has
 a good command of French. During the Open Skies
 Conference, he spontaneously translated part of his
 presentation into French. He is not married. [redacted]

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8 April 1993

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